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NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICER PROPOSES A \$3,000 PENALTY TO SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARMER

SACRAMENTO - The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Executive Officer has issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) complaint to the Jaime and Ramona Rodriguez Trust in Sacramento County for failure to submit a technical report, as required by the California Water Code. The complaint proposes that the Trust pay \$3,000 in penalties for failure to disclose information about its agricultural operations, which could indicate that waste is being discharged to nearby streams.

The Trust was issued a California Water Code Order and was required to return a completed one-page technical report.. The information on the technical report allows the Central Valley Water Board to assess agricultural operations to determine if there is any need for regulatory coverage. The Central Valley Water Board is evaluating program compliance and grower participation to ensure that all commercial irrigated agricultural operations have obtained appropriate regulatory coverage. Under the California Water Code, a Water Board may impose civil liability penalties of up to \$1,000 for each day past the report's due date.

The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program regulates commercial irrigated agricultural operations within the Central Valley Water Board's boundaries, which extend from the Oregon border down to portions of Los Angeles County.

The Central Valley Water Board may consider the complaint at its regular board meeting on August 13/14, 2009.